

GJR/DA
82-82153

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ADRIAN SCHOOLCRAFT,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPUTY CHIEF MICHAEL MARINO, Tax Id. 873220, Individually and in his Official Capacity, ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL BOROUGH BROOKLYN NORTH GERALD NELSON, Tax Id. 912370, Individually and in his Official Capacity, DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEVEN MAURIELLO, Tax Id. 895117, Individually and in his Official Capacity CAPTAIN THEODORE LAUTERBORN, Tax Id. 897840, Individually and in his Official Capacity, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH GOFF, Tax Id. 894025, Individually and in his Official Capacity, SGT. FREDERICK SAWYER, Shield No. 2576, Individually and in his Official Capacity, SERGEANT KURT DUNCAN, Shield No. 2483, Individually and in his Official Capacity, LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER BROSCHART, Tax Id. 915354, Individually and in his Official Capacity, LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY CAUGHEY, Tax Id. 885374, Individually and in his Official Capacity, SERGEANT SHANTEL JAMES, Shield No. 3004, AND P.O.'s "JOHN DOE" #1-50, Individually and in their Official Capacity (the name John Doe being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown) (collectively referred to as "NYPD defendants"), JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER, DR. ISAK ISAKOV, Individually and in his Official Capacity, DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER, Individually and in her Official Capacity and JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEE'S "JOHN DOE" # 1-50, Individually and in their Official Capacity (the name John Doe being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

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VERIFIED ANSWER

Civil Action No.: 10 CIV 6005 (RWS)

**JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED**

Defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER, by its attorneys, MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP, answers the plaintiff complaint as follows, upon information and belief:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "1", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.
2. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "2".

JURISDICTION

3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "3", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

VENUE

4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "4", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

JURY DEMAND

5. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "5", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

PARTIES

6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "11" and "12".

7. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "14", except admits that at all relevant times herein, THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER is a private hospital duly licensed to operate under the laws of the State of New York and operates a facility located at 8900 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, New York.

8. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "15", except admits that at all relevant times herein, THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL

MEDICAL CENTER is a private hospital duly licensed to operate under the laws of the State of New York and operates a facility located at 8900 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, New York and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

9. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "16" and "18", except admits that defendants DR. ISAK ISAKOV and DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER were, and still are, duly licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York.

10. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "17" and "19", except admits that defendants DR. ISAK ISAKOV and DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER were, and still are, associated with the defendant Hospital.

11. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "20".

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

12. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "21", "22", "23", "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47", "48", "49", "50", "51", "52", "53", "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77", "78", "79", "80", "81", "82", "83", "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "100", "101", "102", "103", "104", "105", "106", "107", "108", "109", "110", "111", "112", "113", "114", "115", "116", "117", "118", "119", "120", "121", "122", "123", "124", "125", "126", "127", "128", "129", "130", "131", "132", "133", "134", "135", "136", "137", "138", "139", "140", "141", "142", "143", "144", "145", "146", "147", "148", "149", "150", "151", "152", "153", "154", "155", "156", "157", "158", "159", "160", "161", "162", "163", "164", "172", "173", "181", "182", "199", "207", "208", "209", "210", "211", "214", "215", "216", "217", "218", "219", "220", "221",

“222”, “223”, “224”, “225”, “226”, “227”, “228”, “229”, “230”, “231”, “232”, “233”, “234”, “235”, “236”, “237”, “238”, “239” and “240”.

13. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “165”, “167”, “170”, “191” and “197”, except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

14. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “166” and “168”, except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

15. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “169”, “171”, “178”, “183”, “185”, “186”, “187”, “188”, “189”, “190”, “193”, “194”, “195”, “196”, “203”, “204”, “205”, “206”, “212”, “213”, “241” and “242”.

16. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “174”, “175”, “176”, “177”, “179”, “180”, “184” and “192”, except admits that defendant rendered certain professional services in accordance with acceptable medical standards and due care and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

17. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “198”, “200”, “201” and “202”, except admits that defendant rendered certain professional services in accordance with acceptable medical standards and due care and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

AS TO THE FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

DEPRIVATION OF FEDERAL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

18. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated “243”.

19. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “244”, “245” and “248”.

20. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "246" and "247".

AS TO THE SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FALSE ARREST UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

21. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "249".

22. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "250" and "251".

AS TO THE THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

VIOLATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

23. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "252".

24. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "253", "254", "255", "256", "257", "258", "259", "261", "262", "263", "264", "265", "266" and "267".

25. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "260".

AS TO THE FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

26. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "268".

27. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "269", "270", "271", "272", "273", "274" and "275".

AS TO THE FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

EXCESSIVE FORCE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

28. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "276".

29. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "277" and "278".

AS TO THE SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FAILURE TO INTERCEDE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

30. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "279".

31. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "280", "281", "282" and "283".

AS TO THE SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

UNLAWFUL SEARCH AND ENTRY UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

32. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "284".

33. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "285", "286", "287" and "288".

AS TO THE EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

INVOLUNTARY CONFINEMENT UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

34. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "289".

35. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "290", "291", "292", "293", "294" and "295".

AS TO THE NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

36. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "296".

37. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "297", "298", "299", "300", "300i", "300ii", "300iii", "300iv", "300v", "300vi" and "301".

AS TO THE TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

38. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "second 300".

39. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "second 301".

AS TO THE ELEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

MUNICIPAL LIABILITY UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

40. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "302".

41. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "303", "305", "309", "310" and "311".

42. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "304", "304i", "304ii", "304iii", "304iv", "304v", "304vi", "304vii", "304viii", "second 304", "306", "307", "308", "312", "312i", "312ii", "312iii", "312iv", "312v", "312vi"

PENDANT STATE CLAIMS

43. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "313".
44. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "314", "315", "316", "317" and "318".
45. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "319".

AS TO THE FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:

ASSAULT

46. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "320".
47. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "321" and "322".

AS TO THE SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:

BATTERY

48. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "323".
49. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "324" and "325".
50. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "326".

AS TO THE THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:

FALSE ARREST

51. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "327".

52. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "328".

53. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "329" and "330".

AS TO THE FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:

FALSE IMPRISONMENT

54. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "331".

55. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "332", "333", "334", "335" and "336".

AS TO THE FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:

INFILCTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

56. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "337".

57. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "338", "341", "342", "343", "344" and "345".

58. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "339" and "340".

AS TO THE SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION/RETENTION

(Defendant City of New York)

59. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "346".

60. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "347", "348", "349", "350", "351", "352", "353", "354", "355", "356", "357", "358", "359", "360", "361", "362", "363", "364", "365", "366", "367", "368" and "369".

AS TO THE SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

61. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "370".

62. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "371", "372" and "373".

AS TO THE EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION/RETENTION

(Defendant JHMC)

63. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the complaint designated "374".

64. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "375", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

65. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "376", "377", "378", "378A", "378B", "378C" and "378D".

AS A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

66. Defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER denies liability, but if liability is found against this defendant and the liability is found to be 50% or less of the total liability assigned to all persons liable, then this defendant invokes the limits on liability for noneconomic loss set forth in CPLR §1601.

AS A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

67. That defendant asserts the terms, provisions, limitations and rights contained in §4545 of the CPLR.

AS A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. Whatever injuries plaintiff may have sustained at the time and place alleged in the complaint were caused in whole or in part or were contributed to by the culpable conduct and want of care on the part of the plaintiff.

AS A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

69. That the complaint fails to state a cause or causes of action upon which relief can be granted against defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER.

AS A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

70. Defendant reserves its rights pursuant to CPLR 3017(c) to move to strike plaintiff's AD DAMNUM clause and all other reference to specific amounts of monetary damages in plaintiff complaint.

AS A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

71. Defendant objects to all punitive language, as defendant was not negligent, careless nor reckless. Defendant reserves its right to strike any and all punitive language from the Complaint and all future pleadings.

AS A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

72. This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this action.

AS AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

73. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER is immune from suit under the doctrines of qualified and absolute immunity.

AS A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

74. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER at all times acted in good faith and with justification.

AS A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

75. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER was and is not a state actor.

AS AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

76. The actions by defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER were privileged under Article 9 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

WHEREFORE, defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER demands judgment dismissing the complaint herein, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York
September 7, 2010

Yours, etc.

MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP

By: 
Gregory J. Radomisli (GJR 2670)
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ATTORNEY'S VERIFICATION

I, Gregory J. Radomisli, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, state that I am an attorney with the firm of MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP, the attorneys of record for defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER in the within action; I have read the foregoing ANSWER and know the contents thereof; the same is true to my own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true. The reason this verification is made by me and not by the defendant is that defendant has its place of business outside the county where the affiant has his office.

The grounds of my belief as to all matters not stated upon my own knowledge are as follows: review of all file materials in the offices of MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP.

I affirm the foregoing statements are true, under the penalties of perjury.

Dated: New York, New York
September 7, 2010

By: 
Gregory J. Radomisli (GJR 2670)